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To: Mayors and Chairs, Boards of Supervisors

Subject: National Incident Management System

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Pursuant to Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) -5, "Management of Domestic Incidents," the federal Department of Home Land Security (DHS) developed NIMS. Compliance with NIMS is a prerequisite to receiving federal preparedness grant funds, including funds provided under the Homeland Security Grant Program and Urban Area Security Initiative. California's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) served as a model for the federal government in their development of NIMS and, as such, we are already compliant with many NIMS requirements.

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the overall statewide integration of NIMS into SEMS. California is addressing NIMS requirements through the SEMS Maintenance System as set forth in Governor's Executive Order S-2-05 (enclosure 1). This system provides a vehicle for addressing NIMS implementation through its cross-jurisdictional and cross-disciplinary structure of the Advisory Board, Technical Group, Specialist Committees, and Mutual Aid Regional Advisory Committees.

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2006 is the first year that DHS has set forth NIMS requirements for local government. OES, together with the SEMS Maintenance System committees, is developing guidance materials to assist local government in meeting the FFY 2006 NIMS requirements (enclosure 2). Beginning in May, OES will sponsor workshops throughout the state and provide technical assistance, as needed. Many documents have already been developed including a sample local resolution adopting NIMS (enclosure 3). You can find additional SEMS/NIMS information posted on the OES website at www.oes.ca.gov. Our regional offices will continue to work with local government on this issue. For your convenience, we have enclosed a regional map with contact information (enclosure 4).

I want to express my appreciation and support for the efforts of local government, particularly the emergency management staff, in ensuring NIMS compliance for their respective jurisdictions. Collectively, we have made significant progress and continue to work with our federal counterparts to ensure California's NIMS implementation.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Henry R. Renteria
Director

Enclosures